

VZCZCXRO8041
PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH
DE RUEHGP #0274 0831112
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241112Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6524
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2211
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2261
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0226
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 000274

SIPDIS

EAP/MTS - M. COPPOLA
EAP/MLS - L. SCHEIBE
NSC - E. PHU
NEW DELHI - J. EHRENDREICH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/24/2019
TAGS: [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [SN](#) [BM](#)
SUBJECT: SINGAPORE SUPPORTS MAINTAINING THE TCG'S AUTHORITY
IN BURMA

REF: SECSTATE 27325

Classified By: E/P COUNSELOR IKE REED FOR REASONS 1.4 (B/D)

11. (C) Poloff urged the Government of Singapore to weigh in with the Government of Burma to maintain the Tripartite Core Group's (TCG) existing authority and to discourage the GOB from imposing any further conditions on the activities and travel of international NGOs or diplomatic personnel in the Irrawaddy Delta (reftel) during a meeting with MFA Southeast Asia Deputy Director Desmond Ng March 24. Poloff also stressed that the United States has strong concerns about the weakening of the TCG, and the impact such changes may have on the flow and transparency of assistance to the Delta.

12. (C) Ng responded that Singapore strongly supports the concept of the TCG and agrees with the U.S. position to maintain the TCG's authority. Noting that Burmese Prime Minister Thein Sein just completed a "successful" visit to Singapore, Ng said the "atmospherics are right" for urging Burma to reconsider its decision to restrict the TCG's authority. Ng suggested the Singapore delegation to the upcoming ASEAN-related summits (ASEAN Plus 3 and the East Asia Summit) in Pattaya would have an opportunity to meet with the Burmese delegation to discuss the issue. Ng added that it would be "incoherent" to curb the TCG's authority, given Burma's recent decision to extend the TCG for one year.

Visit Embassy Singapore's Classified website:
<http://www.state.sg.gov/p/eap/singapore/ind ex.cfm>
SHIELDS